

Railroad Maps Donated to Carbondale D&H Transportation Museum

By S. Robert Powell

The Medina Railroad Museum, located in the old New York Central freight depot in Medina, NY, is one of the largest (301 feet by 34 feet) freight depot museums in the country. The building itself was built in 1905-1906 and is the last surviving wooden freight depot in the United States. Featured in the museum is the largest railroad and toy display in New York (an HO-scale model train layout, 204 feet by 14 feet).

“The Museum’s vintage locomotive and train cars from 1947 to 1957 feature five passenger cars and two first-class cars that ride out on the tracks to Lockport and back several times per year for special events. Train season is May through December. In the spring, they provide *A Day Out with Thomas* featuring Thomas the Tank Engine. In the fall, they offer Fall Foliage tours. Polar Express rides after Thanksgiving through mid-December feature cookies with Santa.”

In April 2024, the Medina Railroad Museum decided to de-accession eleven “very large and old map volumes that seem to be from the Pennsylvania and New York area and which are out of scope for our collection.” They contacted Steamtown USA, as a possible home for these eleven map volumes. Steamtown referred them to “S. Robert Powell at the Carbondale Historical Society.”

Powell, not surprisingly, immediately contacted Jocelyn Munn at the Medina Railroad Museum and reported that “the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum would be very pleased to have the eleven map volumes that they were de-accessioning for our collection.” She replied: “That is spectacular! If you would be willing to pay the shipping costs, we will ship them to you.” “Yes, we will pay the shipping costs.” (Four boxes: 28 lbs., 63 lbs., 54 lbs., 59 lbs., which weighed a total of 204 pounds; total cost for shipping, \$314.28.)

The maps were shipped to Carbondale. What a windfall! Eleven volumes, ten of which we have never seen before! One of the volumes (Map No. 10 in the list given below) is a duplicate of a map volume already in the collection of the Carbondale Historical Society. Several hundred pages in all of these professionally drawn D&H maps, most of which are roughly 36 inches x 30 inches; many are in color. If I were at an auction and these maps were offered for sale, I would bid several hundred dollars for each of these eleven volumes! Here are the titles of these eleven map volumes:

Map Volumes from the Medina Railroad Museum, now in the collection of the Carbondale Historical Society:

1. *The Delaware & Hudson Canal Company Railroad, Pennsylvania Division, Plymouth to Carbondale*. Scale 200 feet to an inch
2. *Nineveh Branch, Jefferson Junction to Nineveh*
3. *Delaware and Hudson Canal Company’s Railroad, Pennsylvania Division, Plymouth to Green Ridge, Green Ridge to Honesdale*

4. *Hudson Coal Company Collieries. Atlas Showing Wayne, Susquehanna, Lackawanna, and Luzerne Counties, conveyed by WYOMING VALLEY IMPROVEMENT COMPANY (formerly The Hudson Coal Company) to (BLUE COAL CORPORATION OF MAINE) now HUDSON COAL COMPANY and Its Affiliated Corporations*

5. *Maps of Lackawanna & Susquehanna R. R., Jefferson Junction to Nineveh* (Nineveh Branch of the D&H)

6. *Jefferson Jct. to Nineveh, V. S. 2 and 3*

7. *Napierville Junction Railway, Napierville Co., Quebec*

8. *Maps Binghamton to Albany*

9. *Albany & Schenectady Railroad*; included in this volume are maps of the *Cherry Valley Branch* and the Town of Cherry Valley; also the *Schenectady Branch* (Delanson to Schenectady), 15 map pages covering Schenectady County, with five map pages (23" x 30") covering the Town of Duanesburg

10. *Maps of Right of Way, Penn'a Div'n, D. & H. Co. Carbondale to Honesdale, 1901* (W. E. Anderson, mapmaker). The Carbondale Historical Society owns a copy of this volume, and we are pleased to have a second copy.

11. *Rensselaer & Saratoga Railroad, The Chateaugay R. R. Co., St. Lawrence & Adirondack R. R. Co. Clinton County, NY*

And so these astonishing railroad maps have been saved. Now our work begins. Much will be learned from these maps in the years ahead. Stay tuned.

* * * * *